

Notifiable Conditions & the Veterinarian



Veterinarians, including those working in private practices, laboratories, academic settings, zoos, wildlife centers, animal shelters and government agencies, have an important public health role in the identification and control of zoonotic and vector-borne diseases.

The Washington State Administrative Code (WAC 246-101-405) outlines these responsibilities for veterinarians:

1. **Notify your local public health department* of any suspected or confirmed case or outbreak involving a disease of public health importance (see table below).**
2. **Cooperate with public health authorities in the investigation of suspected and confirmed cases or outbreaks of zoonotic disease.**
3. **Cooperate with public health authorities in the implementation of zoonotic disease infection control measures including isolation and quarantine when necessary.**

DISEASE OR CONDITION (report both suspected and confirmed cases or outbreaks)	Report immediately	Report within 7 work days
Animal bite to human	X	
Anthrax (<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>)	X	
Arthropod-borne viruses: West Nile virus; Eastern & Western equine encephalitis	X	
Bat bite or contact exposure to human or domestic animal	X	
Brucellosis (<i>Brucella abortus</i> , <i>B. melitensis</i> , <i>B. suis</i> , <i>B. canis</i> , <i>B. ovis</i>)	X	
Herpes B virus	X	
Leptospirosis	X	
Plague (<i>Yersinia pestis</i>)	X	
Psittacosis/Ornithosis (<i>Chlamydophila psittaci</i>)	X	
Q Fever (<i>Coxiella burnetii</i>)	X	
Rabies	X	
Tick-borne diseases: Babesiosis, Relapsing fever (<i>Borrelia hermsii</i>) Lyme (<i>B. burgdorferi</i>), Rocky Mt. spotted fever (<i>Rickettsia rickettsii</i>)		X
Trichinosis (<i>Trichinella spiralis</i>)		X
Tuberculosis (<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> , <i>M. bovis</i>)	X	
Tularemia (<i>Francisella tularensis</i>)	X	
Other vector-borne or zoonotic disease of public health significance (examples: spongiform encephalopathies, Baylisascaris infection in a non-raccoon animal, avian influenza, emerging zoonoses as requested by public health officials)	X	

IMPORTANT NOTE: Selected animal diseases, especially in livestock and poultry, must be reported to the Washington State Department of Agriculture, State Veterinarian's Office. These include eradicated diseases (e.g., tuberculosis, brucellosis), suspected foreign animal diseases (e.g., foot and mouth disease, exotic Newcastle disease, hog cholera) and certain domestic diseases (e.g., anthrax, rabies).

For diseases reportable to both the Department of Agriculture and to Public Health, veterinarians can make just one report and the agencies will reciprocally share these reports.

*A list of local health departments can be found at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/LHJMap/LHJMap.htm>.